SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary
G. BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary,
in charge of U. S. National Museum

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

Washington, Decbr. 9th, 1891

Dr. Sereno Watson.

Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Please accept my thanks for your kindness to identify the Cardiospermum, which I certainly had taken for some cucurbitaceous plant. —

May I at the same time call your attention to some other matters, which probably may be shown to be correct?

Last Sunday I found here Gentiana ochroleuca, and I observed then, that the capsule is not „stipitate" as described. The capsule is attenuated at the base and the supposed stipe contained numerous seeds like the upper half! This may be the same case with other Gentiana-species „capsulis stipitatis"?

over!

And when I the other day looked over some species of Blaeria, especially trachyspermæ, I nearly believe, that the uppermost situated flowers are „sterile" with but rudimentary ovary!

Concerning Obolaria, my specimens in Alcohol, which I collected last spring, show distinctly 4 papillose scales in alternation with the corolla-lobes, just below the throat! I do not believe in calling the 2 green leaves calyx in this species, rather „prophylla" in regard to their position, at right and left to the flower, and the presence of these above mentioned scales changes the place of the genus in Bendh. & H. „genera plantarum".

Yours very sincerely

Thos. Holm

Holm